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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AEP OHIO ANNOUNCES SECOND STEP IN BARNESVILLE AREA IMPROVEMENTS
TRANSMISSION GRID UPGRADE IN EASTERN OHIO**

GAHANNA, Ohio, March 16, 2016 – AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), and AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., will host an open house in April to seek valuable public feedback about planned improvements to the electric transmission grid in eastern Ohio.

The Barnesville Area Improvements Project, originally announced by AEP Ohio in October 2014, involves rebuilding and upgrading approximately 32 miles of existing 69-kilovolt (kV) power lines to 138-kV. The existing 69-kV facilities were built in the 1940s. These will be replaced with 138-kV lines and structures that are somewhat taller and of heavier construction. This will allow the lines to carry more power.

“The Barnesville-Summerfield Transmission Line is the second phase to improving the electric service reliability in Belmont, Guernsey and Noble counties,” said Todd Sides, project manager for AEP Ohio. “Similar to the Speidel-Barnesville portion, this upgrade provides AEP Ohio with a transmission grid capable of handling the existing electric demand, while at the same time, preparing for the possibility of future growth.”

To learn more about this project, the public is invited to attend a project open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 5 at Barnesville High School, 910 Shamrock Drive, Barnesville, Ohio 43713. Visitors may come and go at any time during the workshop. Belmont County residents can offer input, ask questions of project team members and learn more about the new transmission line.

“The project team encourages landowners and the public to attend the open house to find out more about this project,” Sides said. “AEP Ohio welcomes public involvement and feedback throughout the process and strives to address concerns and offer responsible solutions.”

AEP Ohio plans to invest approximately \$20 million in the Barnesville-Summerfield transmission line. Construction is targeted to begin in early 2017 and be complete by late 2018.

Additional information about the project, including maps, is available online at AEPOhio.com/Barnesville-Summerfield.

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AEP Ohio provides electricity to nearly 1.5 million customers of major AEP Subsidiary Ohio Power Company in Ohio. AEP Ohio is based in Gahanna, Ohio, and is a unit of American Electric Power. News and information about AEP Ohio can be found at AEPOhio.com.

American Electric Power is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to nearly 5.4 million customers through 223,000 miles of distribution lines in 11 states. AEP owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a more than 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP also ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 32,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP's utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP's headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio. News releases and other information about AEP can be found at AEP.com.



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